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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In the Application of:

BENTON ET AL.

CASE NO.: FA0881 US NA

APPLICATION NO.: 09/536,137

GROUP ART UNIT: 2771 2171

FILED: MARCH 28, 2000

EXAMINER: UNKNOWN NGUYEN,
CAM LIN H

FOR: COLOR MATCHING METHOD FOR AUTOMOTIVE REFINISHING

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring to the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office information listed on the enclosed PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B. A copy of the information is also enclosed.

A concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood, of each item of information listed is set forth below.

The Sherwin Williams publication dated April 18, 2000 shows how historical information, such as the 10th and 11th character of the VIN (vehicle identification number) code, can be attached to the alternate formulas for the manufacturer's paint code, to help the body shop painter manually locate the best matching refinish paint formulation for the vehicle being repaired. The 10th character of the VIN stands for the model year, and the 11th character stands for the assembly plant location. The Sherwin Williams system works like this: The body shop painter views the alternate refinish formulas for the vehicle's paint code on microfiche or on a computer screen and if the VIN code on the vehicle matches the VIN code information placed in the message section of the formula, then that alternate is the best opportunity for a good match. The Sherwin Williams publication is not competent prior art against the subject application, as it is dated after the filing date of present application.

Nevertheless, prior to the filing of the present application, DuPont, the assignee of the present invention, had been attaching historical information, such as the 10th and 11th character of the VIN code, to the alternate formulas for a paint code, to assist the body shop in manually locating the best match for the vehicle being repaired. The DuPont system works like this: The body shop painter views the alternate refinish formulas on a computer screen hooked up to DuPont's ColorNet® formula inquiry system and if the VIN code on the vehicle matches the VIN code information written in the message section of the formula, then that

alternate is the best opportunity for a good match. A screen shot of DuPont's ColorNet® formula inquiry system showing use of the 11th character of the VIN code is provided herewith.

The last item submitted herewith is PPG's PCT patent application WO 01/44767 A1, which was published on June 21, 2001. WO '767 is the closest art cited thus far, as it is drawn to use of a computer-implemented method for matching paint on a vehicle, using the individual vehicle's information, such as the VIN, predict the best match color formulations for use in repair of a vehicle. WO '767 claims the benefit of United States Provisional Application Serial No. 60/172,473 filed December 17, 1999. Presently, Applicant does not have a copy of this priority document, but the examiner clearly has access to such document.

Should any fee be required in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S-C-B", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

STEVEN C. BENJAMIN
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 36,087
Telephone: (302) 992-2236
Facsimile: (302) 992-2533

Dated: September 17, 2001

Enclosures



PTO/SB/92 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement
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